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THE HEALTH OF WOMBWELL



U.D.C.

1957



THE HEALTH OF WOMBWELL

being the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1957.



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WOMBWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Divisional Health Office,
6, Victoria Road,
BARNSELY.

November, 1958.

ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year ended 31st December, 1957.

To The Chairman and Members of the Wombwell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Mellor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my second Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your district for the year 1957.

I have this year given the report something of a "new look", which I believe will be appreciated by you. I felt that it would be of interest to each individual authority to compare their various statistics with other similar districts and with the division as a whole.

I think the report can be regarded as generally satisfactory. Most statistics relating to the district come within the average limits of the national figure. Supplies of Polio-myelitis Vaccine were again inadequate to supply all the needs, but this situation has to some extent been over-come during 1958.

It is pleasing to be able to report that some progress was made with slum clearance in your district during the year, but much remains to be done before the five-year programme is completed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the courtesy and many kindnesses they have shown, the Chief Public Health Inspector for his help and co-operation and the staff of the divisional health office for their loyal support.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
R. BARNES,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman of the Council : Councillor J. A. Hall, C.B.E., J.P.

Chairman : County Councillor J. W. Mellor, J.P.

Councillors : Mrs. E. Mellor and Messrs. T. Bird, B.E.M., T. F. Pickering, J. Rose, H. F. Saunders and J. Wade.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

R. Barnes, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officers of Wombwell Welfare Clinic :

L. Taylor, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

W. G. S. Maxwell, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Medical Officer of Jump Welfare Clinic :

J. H. Fairclough, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Wombwell Ante-Natal Clinic :

N. M. Piercy, M.B., Ch.B.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. Finney, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

(Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods).

Additional Public Health Inspector :

B. Hague, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Health Visitors :

F. H. Whittlestone, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

B. Hunter, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

B. Clarke, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor :

E. Beever, S.R.N.

Senior Clerk, Divisional Health Office :

L. S. Wrigg.

URBAN DISTRICT OF WOMBWELL. **SECTION I.**

Statistics and Social Conditions :

Area	3,850 acres
Population Census 1951	18,837
Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1957	18,990
No. of inhabited houses according to rate book	5,848
Rateable Value	£122,310
Nett product of a Penny Rate	£417

The soil of the district consists of marl and clay with a sandy sub-soil resting on the shales and sandstones of the coal measures. The surface is undulating and the average height above sea level is 200 feet. The chief occupations of the population are coal-mining, textile manufacturing, the manufacture of by-products from coal, engineering and printing. Coal-mining is by far the largest source of employment.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimated population at mid 1957 was 18,990, as compared with 19,000 at mid 1956. The natural increase of population or the number of births over deaths was 158 as compared with 142 in 1956.

Live Births.

The number of births registered during the year was 328, an increase of 13 compared with 1956. There were 13 illegitimate births or 3.9% of the total births registered.

The Registrar General has again supplied a comparability factor for the births in 1957 which relates the proportion of women of child-bearing age in the district with the proportion in a standard population. The crude birth rate multiplied by the comparability factor gives an adjusted rate which is comparable with similar adjusted rates for other districts and with the rate for the country as a whole.

The adjusted birth rate for the district was 17.3 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 16.6 per 1,000 estimated population for the previous year and with 16.1 per 1,000 estimated population for England and Wales.

Stillbirths.

There were 5 stillbirths last year, 1 more than in 1956. The stillbirth rate was 15.0 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths as compared with 12.5 for 1956 and with 22.4 for England and Wales.

BIRTH RATE.

Year	BIRTHS			Rate per 1,000 Population		
	Males	Females	Total	Wombwell Adjusted	Crude	England & Wales
1953	177	165	342	18.6	18.2	15.5
1954	162	159	321	17.1	17.1	15.2
1955	158	150	308	16.2	16.2	15.0
1956	150	165	315	16.6	16.6	15.7
1957	171	157	328	17.3	17.3	16.1

STILLBIRTHS.

Year	Stillbirths	Total Births Live and Still	Percentage of Stillbirths to Total Births
1953	6	348	1.72
1954	5	326	1.53
1955	11	319	3.44
1956	4	319	1.25
1957	5	333	1.5

Deaths.

The total number of deaths last year, including deaths of residents dying outside the district but excluding non-residents who died in the district was 170 comprised of 99 males and 71 females. The adjusted death rate, which is the crude death rate multiplied by the comparability factor, was 11.5 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 11.6 per 1,000 estimated population for the previous year and with 11.5 per 1,000 estimated population for England and Wales.

The principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were : Heart and Circulatory, 53 ; Cancer, 25 ; Respiratory, 22.

There were 25 enquiries held by the Coroner.

Accidental Deaths.

There were 5 accidental deaths in your area in 1957, 2 of which occurred in the home, two were accidents at work and there was one other. The total number of accidents in the home in the division was 9 and of these 6 were caused by falls, 1 by gas poisoning, 1 by an electric shock and 1 was drowned in the bath. It is pleasing to be able to report that a Home Safety Committee was formed in Wombwell during the year to help in spreading propaganda designed to reduce the number of these home accidents.

Infant and Peri-natal Mortality.

The Infant Mortality rate last year was 27.4 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 25.4 in 1956 and with 23.0 per 1,000 live births for England and Wales. Of the 9 infant deaths, 7 occurred within the first month of life and the neo-natal mortality rate was 21.3 per 1,000 live births.

Last year I discussed the concept of peri-natal mortality and my remarks then still hold good. I consider that your record is a reasonable one in respect of both infant deaths and stillbirths, but the situation does not leave room for complacency. Prematurity again accounted for the larger proportion of neo-natal deaths.

The following table is a record for your district over the past eight years in respect of peri-natal mortality.

Year	Deaths in first week of life	Stillbirths	Total live and stillbirths	Peri-natal mortality
1950	2	10	376	31.9
1951	7	11	355	50.1
1952	5	6	377	29.2
1953	7	6	348	37.3
1954	2	5	326	21.4
1955	3	11	319	43.9
1956	5	4	319	28.2
1957	6	5	333	33.0

INFANT MORTALITY.

	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Broncho-Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Meningitis	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Neo-natal Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	6	1	—	—	7	1	1	—	—	9

Maternal Deaths.

I am glad to report that no death attributable to maternal causes occurred last year.

DEATH RATES.

Year	No. of Deaths	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 Population		
				Crude	Wombwell Adjusted	England & Wales
1953	197	112	85	10.5	12.4	11.4
1954	181	101	80	9.6	11.4	11.3
1955	179	108	71	9.4	11.1	11.7
1956	173	97	76	9.1	11.6	11.7
1957	170	99	71	9.0	11.5	11.5

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS.

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	6	3	9
1— 5 years	—	1	1
5—10 years	—	—	—
10—15 years	1	—	1
15—20 years	—	—	—
20—25 years	1	—	1
25—35 years	3	2	5
35—45 years	4	1	5
45—55 years	9	5	14
55—65 years	12	11	23
65—70 years	13	7	20
70—75 years	17	9	26
75—80 years	15	15	30
80—85 years	15	8	23
85—90 years	3	8	11
90 years and over	—	1	1
TOTALS	99	71	170

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1957.

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	1	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	—	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	8	16
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	9	23
18. Coronary disease, angina	15	14	29
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease	8	6	14
21. Other circulatory disease	5	2	7
22. Influenza	1	2	3
23. Pneumonia	2	3	5
24. Bronchitis	11	2	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	4	—	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	5	4	9
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	8	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	3	2	5
35. Suicide	4	—	4
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes	99	71	170

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1957.

Based on the Registrar General's Figures.

	Womb- well Urban District	Aggregate W. Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (Prov'nal figures)
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population :				
Crude	17.3	16.1	16.6	16.1
Adjusted	17.3	16.2	16.7	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population :				
Crude	9.0	12.4	11.7	11.5
Adjusted	11.5	12.9	12.7	
Infective and Parasitic diseases excluding Tuber- culosis but including Venereal Diseases	0.05	0.07	0.07	not available
Tuberculosis :				
Respiratory	0.05	0.08	0.08	0.09
Other	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01
All forms	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.11
Cancer	1.32	1.99	1.87	2.09
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	1.21	2.15	1.95	not available
Heart and circulatory diseases	2.79	4.61	4.30	not available
Respiratory diseases	1.32	1.46	1.37	not available
Maternal Mortality	—	0.41	0.51	0.47
Infant Mortality	27.4	25.4	26.4	23.0
Stillbirths	15.0	23.5	23.9	22.4

SECTION II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Staff.

The Medical Officer is a part-time officer of the Council, but is engaged on whole-time Public Health work, being also Medical Officer of Health for the surrounding districts and the Divisional Medical Officer for Division No. 25 of the West Riding County Council. Two Public Health Inspectors are employed, together with one pupil assistant.

General Hospitals.

The general hospitals serving your district and administered through the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board are given below :

1. United Group Hospitals, Sheffield.
2. The Beckett Hospital, Barnsley.
3. The St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley.
4. The Moorgate General Hospital, Rotherham.

Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

All infectious diseases requiring hospital admission were admitted to the Kendray Hospital, Barnsley. The ambulance arrangements were the same as for the previous year with the Hospital retaining its own ambulances for this service.

Maternity Hospitals.

Maternity cases were usually admitted to the following hospitals :

1. St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley.
2. Montagu Hospital, Mexborough.
3. Hallamshire Maternity Home, Chapeltown.
4. Pindar Oaks Maternity Home, Barnsley.

The services of the Jessop Hospital, Sheffield, were also available for abnormal obstetric cases.

Tuberculosis.

Most patients suffering from the disease are admitted to the Wath Wood Sanatorium, and co-operation is maintained with the Chest Physician who holds out-patients' sessions at the Chest Clinic, 46, Church Street, Barnsley. Details of sessions are as follows :

Tuesday,	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon (children)
Wednesday,	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.
Wednesday	2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Thursday,	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon (children)
Friday	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.

Venereal Diseases.

The nearest centre for Wombwell patients for the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases is in Barnsley :

Address : Special Treatment Centre,
Queen's Road,
BARNSELY.

Other centres are situate at Sheffield, Doncaster and Rotherham, and a patient suffering from Venereal Disease is at liberty to attend at the centre of his choice. Treatment is completely confidential.

Clinic Facilities.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Wombwell Clinic, Public Library, Sation Road, Wombwell, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m., and at Jump Clinic, Miners' Welfare Hall, Jump, on Mondays, 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m. School clinics are held fortnightly on Tuesday mornings at the Wombwell Clinic. Ante-Natal Clinics are held on Thursday afternoons at Wombwell Clinic.

Laboratory Service.

The laboratory service was provided by the Public Health Laboratory in Wakefield, a national service under the control of the Medical Research Council. The laboratory is equipped to deal with all bacteriological and pathological examinations, and a complete investigation is undertaken and report furnished for every specimen sent for examination.

Samples of milk taken under the Food and Drugs Act for chemical analysis were examined by the Public Analyst at Bradford at the expense of the County Council.

Ambulance Service.

The ambulance service is operated by the West Riding County Council. The depot for your area being at Hoyland, Telephone No. Hoyland 3168 and Hoyland 2112.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to Mr. C. Knowles, your Surveyor, for the following report.

Sewage Disposal.

New Scarborough Sewage Works.

I have again to report that owing to a seam of coal being worked under the New Scarborough Sewage Works the effects of mining subsidence are still apparent in the tanks and the filters.

Since your last report another £30,000 has been spent on the construction of 27" and a 24" diameter iron sewers from the railway to the works and this has obviated flooding which used to take place on the brickworks.

I am also pleased to report that we have been informed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government that we can now proceed with the outstanding work of constructing new sewers throughout the district.

Lundhill Sewage Works.

These works are giving a better effluent than ever and the Rivers Board are quite pleased about these results.

Sewers.

We have still got the same difficulties with regard to the blockage of sewers owing to mining subsidence and these have to be remedied as they occur.

Housing.

During the year under review 2 houses and 2 bungalows have been completed by the Council on the Wilson Street Estate.

Six houses and six bungalows have been erected by private enterprise during the same period.

Swimming Baths.

I am indebted to Mr. G. R. Johnson, your Baths Manager, for the following report on the swimming baths.

The poor weather experienced during the summer was not ideal for bathing purposes, but nevertheless 79,362 bathers used the establishment. Schoolchildren numbering 22,824 and Evening Class Students numbering 2,149 attended in organised classes, all of whom received instruction in swimming and life-saving.

The demand for extra periods for School, Evening Class, and Swimming Club purposes increased, but at the present time all the available time is fully employed for these activities.

Frequent samples of swimming bath water were taken for analysis and these showed a high standard of bacterial purity, which is maintained by constant circulation through the filters followed by aeration and chlorine treatment. The water is kept at a constant temperature and has a turnover of approximately three hours.

SECTION III.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases in your district last year amounted to 512 cases as compared with 165 in the previous year. This was largely accounted for in the increase in the notification of Measles during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1957.

	Total cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Erysipelas	6	1	—
Measles	402	7	—
Whooping Cough	19	1	—
Scarlet Fever	64	18	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—
Pneumonia	16	5	5
Dysentery	1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	—	—

Infectious Diseases (Age Groups).

	Under 1 year	1—3 years	3—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—25 years	25—45 years	45—65 years	65 and over	Age unknown
Scarlet Fever	—	7	6	43	7	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	1	1	2	1	6	3	2	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	20	108	136	135	1	1	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	2	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	—

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN WOMBWELL DURING TEN YEARS.

YEAR	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Tuberculous Diseases	Smallpox	Meningococcal Infections	Acute Poliomyelitis-Paralytic	Acute Poliomyelitis-Non-Paralytic	Acute Polioencephalitis	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery
1948	69	12	—	—	6	4	17	—	20	7	—	4	1	—	—	92	754	2
1949	30	—	—	—	5	5	32	—	24	5	—	2	1	—	1	43	66	—
1950	19	—	1	1	10	2	16	—	27	8	—	1	1	—	—	139	367	24
1951	17	—	—	4	7	5	17	—	33	3	—	1	1	2	—	134	220	13
1952	12	—	—	4	2	2	16	1	23	5	—	2	3	1	—	131	187	3
1953	65	—	—	3	—	1	15	—	21	5	—	1	3	—	1	27	469	12
1954	16	1	—	5	2	5	19	—	14	3	—	2	1	1	—	159	66	3
1955	8	—	—	6	—	2	10	—	10	2	—	—	8	5	—	33	385	10
1956	28	—	—	1	4	2	20	—	12	4	—	2	—	—	—	57	23	12
1957	64	—	—	1	6	2	16	—	12	1	—	1	—	—	—	19	402	1

Scarlet Fever.

64 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. This was a considerable increase compared with the previous year and it will be noted from the table on the incidence over the past ten years that this disease does show periodicity. Of the 64 cases 18 were admitted to hospital more because of the difficulty of nursing and isolation at home than because of the severity of the disease. In general, the disease was mild, there were no deaths and no serious complications.

Measles.

402 cases were notified during the year. Your table of infectious diseases over the past ten years again shows quite clearly a cycle of events with regard to Measles and this was a year of relatively high incidence.

Smallpox.

No case of Smallpox occurred during the year. The number of infants vaccinated was 85 as compared with 67 in the previous year. This represents 23% of the infant population as compared with 17% in 1956. This small increase is welcome, but is not sufficient to guard any proportion of the population against the disease. In these days of air travel with such a small proportion of the population immune, a grave catastrophe could over-take this country if the disease were to become established.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year and there were 19 cases of Whooping Cough. This compares with 57 cases of Whooping Cough in 1956. I am sorry to have to report that in 1957 the number of children immunised against Whooping Cough fell by 15 to 127. This represents approximately 40% of the infant population. This is a disease which can be very serious and even fatal in young children, and I must urge that greater numbers of the population should seek to have their children immunised either at County clinics or through their family doctors. I hope that this position will improve with the introduction of combined immunisation, which will reduce the number of injections necessary.

This vaccine was in fact introduced late in 1957 but was too late to affect the figures for that year. There was a slight fall in the statistics relating to Diphtheria immunisation. The 1957 figures show 60.9% of all children in the 0 — 14 years age group immunised as against 68.0% in 1956. 35.5% of all children in the 0 — 4 years age group were protected and 71.9% in the age group between 5 — 14 years. It must be admitted that some of this fall is partly due to immunisation being postponed while Poliomyelitis Vaccine took priority. I do not believe that there was any real falling off in the desire of parents to receive this protection for their children.

Poliomyelitis.

I have much pleasure in recording that for the second year running no case of Poliomyelitis occurred in your district. Immunisation against Poliomyelitis continued during the year and by the end of the year 582 children had been immunised with two doses. During the year, and particularly towards the end of the year, many more children were registered for vaccination against Poliomyelitis, and at 31st December, 1957, the waiting list stood at 1,534.

Food Poisoning.

One case of Food Poisoning was confirmed last year, and it is difficult to make comment on a single isolated case. No source of infection was traced.

Tuberculosis.

There were 12 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one new case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified in your district last year, as compared with 12 and 4 respectively in 1956.

I feel that this disease is greatly being eradicated, but it is important that the last few remaining cases should be discovered and that precautions should be taken, otherwise the disease might again become rampant.

I would like to pay tribute to the vast amount of work carried out by the Tuberculosis Health Visitors, in conjunction with the Chest Physician, in ensuring that contacts attend for examination. I feel that this is one sphere where there is excellent co-ordination and co-operation between the hospital and the local authority services.

TUBERCULOSIS — Record of Cases during 1957.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
No. of cases on register at 1st January	81	50	13	11
No. of cases notified for first time during year	8	4	—	1
No. of cases restored to register	1	—	—	—
No. of cases added to register otherwise than by notification	—	—	—	1
No. removed to other districts	5	2	—	—
No. cured or otherwise removed from register	3	1	—	1
No. died from disease	1	—	—	1
No. died from other causes	3	—	—	—
Total at end of 1957	78	51	13	11

TUBERCULOSIS — New Cases and Mortality in 1957.

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 24	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 44	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45 to 64	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and up	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTAL	8	4	—	1	1	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS — New Cases and Mortality for the past ten years.

YEAR	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1948	20	7	13	1
1949	24	5	7	—
1950	27	8	6	1
1951	33	3	3	—
1952	23	5	6	2
1953	21	5	6	—
1954	14	3	5	—
1955	10	2	—	—
1956	12	4	2	—
1957	12	1	1	1

SECTION IV.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR 1957.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
WOMBWELL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wombwell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Mellor and Gentlemen,

I have very great pleasure in presenting to you my seventh Annual Report on those matters concerning the health of Wombwell for which my Department is responsible.

May I tender my sincere thanks to the members of the Council and in particular the members of the Public Health Committee, without whose support and confidence progress in the vitally important field of Public Health could not be made. I would like also to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation given by my fellow officials, and of the manner in which the Additional Public Health Inspector and the other members of my staff have continued to carry out their duties throughout the year. They discharge with great understanding and tact the very important and extremely difficult task of dealing with all sections of the public. This, together with the efficient manner in which they carry out departmental duties has played a large part in the continued smooth working of the Department.

The report contained in the following pages covers as far as possible every aspect of the Department's work but it is not possible to deal with all the hundreds of small items which are not recorded. It is probably true to say that many of these matters have played a significant part in helping someone, or in smoothing out a difficulty.

1957 will be remembered as seeing the introduction of the controversial Rent Act, which marked a further stage in the development of Housing legislation. There was also introduced during the year the Housing Act, 1957 and, although the appointed day for the coming into operation of certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956 was 31st December, 1956 it was during 1957 that work under the Act really commenced.

The appointed day for the remaining provisions of the Clean Air Act was promised for early in 1958.

Once again I would say that the emphasis was on Housing, Food, Atmospheric Pollution and Public Cleansing.

Your obedient servant,

J. FINNEY,

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

Housing.

During the year 17 new dwellings were erected in your District, 4 by the Council and 13 by private enterprise. These numbers are very much short of the yearly average which has been maintained since building recommenced in 1947.

The 2 houses and 2 bungalows which were erected by the Council were a further development of the Wilson Street Estate. The total number of inhabited houses within your district is now 5,848. The population for mid 1957 was 18,990 and this gives an average figure of 3.25 persons per house.

Since the war the Council has erected 900 houses and bungalows. During this same period 635 cases of families living in lodgings have been rehoused, 589 to new houses and the remainder to re-lets. 195 cases of overcrowding in single families have been alleviated during the same period, 121 to new houses and the remainder to re-lets.

It was suggested in last year's report that there still existed a demand for houses for general needs. The large number of letters received by the Housing Sub-Committee of the Council during the year has made it quite clear that the demand is real and increasing. The problem was undoubtedly brought into sharper focus by the cessation of the Council's building activities and the fact that there was no immediate prospect of a re-commencement to meet "general needs" housing requirements.

During the year the 2 newly erected Council Houses and 2 bungalows and a number of re-lets on the other housing estates were utilised as follows :

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|----|
| (1) | Alleviation of overcrowding : | |
| (a) | Single Families | 3 |
| (b) | Two or more families in house | 19 |
| (2) | Cases of sickness or disability | 4 |

House Letting.

Due to a number of factors the Council were compelled to discontinue building for general needs and the number of houses available for letting was by far the least since you recommenced building following the war.

In a number of cases where rehousing was being carried out some tenants were considered unsuitable for new houses and some were unable to pay the comparatively high rent. By arrangement with the Collector exchanges were effected by means of which existing Council House tenants were permitted to take over the tenancy of a new house and the house thus vacated was allocated to one of the cases referred to in the preceding paragraph.

The Council is to be commended on its foresight in erecting special types of dwellings for the rehousing of cases of paraplegia. Two such dwellings were completed and occupied during the early part of the year.

The Collector and I have worked in close collaboration at all times to ensure that the best possible use be made of the available houses.

Slum Clearance, Unfit Houses and Demolition.

Towards the end of 1956 the Council resolved to erect 70 dwellings (66 bungalows and 4 houses) on the Wilson Street estate for Slum Clearance purposes.

A survey of the existing Council owned houses had revealed that a large number of 3 bedroom type houses were occupied by aged couples or single aged persons, many of them in failing health, and who could be rehoused more satisfactorily in bungalows. Since many of the families to be rehoused under the Slum Clearance programme would require houses with three bedrooms it was felt that an opportunity presented itself of eliminating some of the known under-occupation and of proceeding with Slum Clearance rehousing at the same time by erecting bungalows.

In proposing such a plan, involving the movement of so many families, it was realised that many difficulties would arise but it was felt that the advantages gained by eliminating the waste of living accommodation would far outweigh any disadvantages which might be encountered in carrying out the necessary rearrangements of tenancies. It will, no doubt, be possible to enumerate the difficulties and comment on the system generally in the next report.

The reasons for erecting bungalows, therefore, are readily seen. By providing one such dwelling the Council are able to reduce the waiting list for aged persons bungalows and to continue with the Slum Clearance programme. It is a cause for regret, however, that such a scheme is limited in its scope to dealing with old people in Council owned houses. If it could be extended to include privately owned houses even greater benefits would result.

The proportion of people of pensionable age in this country has risen to approximately one in seven and that would indicate that a greater proportion of Council owned property should be of a type suitable for occupation by old people.

For these reasons, therefore, the Council are to be congratulated on their decision to embark on such a policy. Everything will be done to derive the greatest possible benefit from the scheme.

As was reported in the 1956 Report all the houses in the Church Street-Alma Street area had been vacated at the end of 1956. Action was taken during the year under review to have these houses demolished and the site cleared. The land thus cleared is in the centre of the town and it is hoped that enlightened planning and development will transform what was formerly a congestion of dreary, dilapidated, depressing, and unhealthy dwellings into an area of beauty and dignity in which the townspeople can take some pride.

In addition 4 houses were demolished in other parts of the town, viz. :—

No. 13, The Green, HEMINGFIELD.

Nos. 1 and 2, Sandy Lane, WOMBWELL.

Quarry House, Wombwell Wood, WOMBWELL.

As will be seen elsewhere in the report only 4 new dwellings were completed by the Council and this caused the Slum Clearance programme to suffer a severe setback. However, during the year a further 61 houses were inspected and represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation having regard to the standard set out in the Housing Act. 27 were included in two Clearance Areas and 34 represented under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as follows :—

CLEARANCE AREAS.

No. 1 George Street Area.

Premises 25 — 43, George Street, Wombwell	10
Premises 7 — 13, George Street, Wombwell	4
Premises 45 — 49, George Square, Wombwell	3
Premises 51 — 63, George Square, Wombwell	7
Total	24

No. 2 High Street Area.

Premises 62 and 64, High Street, Wombwell	2

Housing Act 1936. Section II.

Premises 40 — 52, Beech House Road, Hemingfield	7
Premises 50 — 80, Pontefract Road, Broomhill	16
Premises 57 — 60, Lundhill Top, Wombwell	4
Premises 12, Fitzwilliam Street, Hemingfield	1
Premises 1 and 5, The Green, Hemingfield	2
Premises 88, Tingle Bridge Lane, Hemingfield	1
Premises 36, 88 and 101, Netherwood Road, Wombwell	3
Total	34

It is hoped that circumstances will change sufficiently and the opportunity present itself next year to make up the ground which has been lost in the Slum Clearance Programme. It will be remembered that the suggested number of 297 houses to be dealt with in five years was approved but only 97 have been cleared in two years. It cannot be stressed too often the dangers and difficulties, the frustration and depression which arise from existing in houses which are worn out, which do not allow a reasonable amount of daylight to penetrate into the rooms, which are damp and in disrepair, and which lack a bathroom, a hot water system, a good kitchen, a satisfactory foodstore and all the other amenities which the average family regards as indispensable and normal.

It will be seen from the list of houses represented during the year that 11 of them were in Hemingfield and none in Jump. There are, of course, other unfit houses in these two villages, especially in Jump, where there is a high proportion of houses considered to be so bad as to warrant demolition but I would suggest that it is wrong to continue demolishing houses in these areas and to expect the people thus displaced to accept rehousing in Wombwell. In this way, these villages, each with its own distinctive character, would gradually die.

This should be avoided at all costs and every attempt made to redevelop the villages on modern lines, preserving the existing interests of the community and, if possible, introducing new ones. Such a plan is especially urgent at Jump where upwards of 130 houses are included in the first Five Year Plan.

HOUSING ACT, 1949. SECTION 20.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Improvement Grants.

I am pleased to be able to report that there was during the year an increase in the number of persons making application for Improvement Grants. As has been explained previously this is an excellent means of extending the useful life of structurally sound houses by providing modern amenities and insuring against their demolition in the foreseeable future.

In the past all applications have come from owner/occupiers, as did the first 16 applications in 1957 and I have commented on the lack of enterprise on the part of owners of rows of terrace properties which in many cases would lend themselves to improvement. However, late in the year plans and specifications were submitted from the owners of Nos. 21 to 39, Milton Street, Wombwell, showing proposed improvements. The Public Health Committee accepted them as satisfactory and the offer of an Improvement Grant was made. Since this is the most significant application made so far, being for property which is rented, I think a few comments would be of interest.

Milton Street is in an area of houses which are all very similar in age and character. They were erected approximately 70 years ago and the 10 in respect of which the application was made are stone fronted, 4 room cottages with a common yard. They are not seriously damp and a number of defects exist. As a condition of the grants being made the owners were informed that they would be required to carry out all the necessary works of repair and maintenance at the same time as the improvement works. It was proposed to erect a single storey building at the rear, containing a bathroom (including water closet) and a ventilated foodstore, to take out the existing obsolete Yorkshire Cooking range in the living room and replace it with a tiled surround continuous burning fire, to take out the washing copper in the scullery, to build a chimney breast and fix a new approved type combination range, to provide new floors in living room and scullery, install a hot water system and wire the house for

electricity. In addition, works of repair and maintenance included demolishing the old water closets, carrying out plaster work repairs, fixing new scullery windows, repairs to doors, spouting, roofs and painting all woodwork.

This experiment will be watched very closely and with great interest for it may serve as an example of what can be done. A report after the completion of the operation will be given next year. The Council could with advantage consider the purchase and modernisation of similar properties.

The houses in respect of which grants were made are as follows :—

PREMISES	AMOUNT OF GRANT		
	£	s.	d.
No: 153 Hough Lane, Wombwell	127	0	0
No: 157 Hough Lane, Wombwell	128	0	0
No: 15 Rimington Road, Wombwell	91	10	0
No: 136 Station Road, Wombwell	106	0	0
No: 170 Hough Lane, Wombwell	148	10	0
No: 147 Hough Lane, Wombwell	281	0	0
No: 89 Cemetery Road, Hemingfield	124	0	0
No: 13 Wilson Street, Wombwell	125	0	0
No: 279 Hough Lane, Wombwell	146	10	0
No: 143 Blythe Street, Wombwell	154	10	0
No: 86 Blythe Street, Wombwell	127	0	0
Nos: 21—39 Milton Street, Wombwell	3,265	0	0
No: 151 Hough Lane, Wombwell	115	0	0
No: 6 Cemetery Road, Hemingfield	130	10	0
No: 56 Bartholomew Street, Wombwell	117	0	0
No: 19 Hough Lane, Wombwell	103	10	0
No: 132 Hough Lane, Wombwell	136	0	0
TOTALS 26 Grants	£5,426	0	0

Housing Repairs.

During the year the Rent Act, 1957 came into operation. Since its date of commencement was July and the notices of rent increase could not become operative before October it is perhaps too early as yet to make comment on its effect. Some of the provisions of the Act were entirely new and judging by the very large number calling at my office for information as to the procedure and implications of the Act the majority of people affected were greatly perplexed by it. A considerable amount of time was devoted to interviewing such people, both landlords and tenants, during the second half of the year.

The onus for taking action and ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Act rests to a large extent with the landlord and the tenant and a very large number of prescribed forms were devised for the service of the necessary notices. Since none of these forms were available in Wombwell they were purchased and stocked in my office for sale to persons applying for them. All the necessary forms were thus made readily obtainable.

At the end of the year it was beginning to be felt that perhaps a good number of tenants would not go to the trouble of "form-filling" in order to have repairs carried out. This will be seen as the provisions of the Act became fully operative next year.

A great amount of space in the newspapers was devoted to publicising the new Act and in most cases accent was placed on certain aspects whereas others, of equal if not greater importance, received scarcely a mention. As the result of such publicity the impression became widespread that this was the only means of securing repairs and renewals in houses. I would take this opportunity of correcting this impression — the provisions of the Housing Act and the Public Health Act have not been affected in the least and the great mass of routine work in the Department continued to be carried out under the appropriate sections of these Acts.

The routine work of securing repairs and improvements to houses was continued and once again the same difficulties were experienced. The number of contractors in the town who are prepared to undertake property repairs is very small and their resources are usually limited. There is inevitably a delay in many cases in securing the execution of works of repair.

During the year 291 Informal Notices were served and of these 251 or 86% were complied with. In addition, 84 notices brought forward from 1956 were also complied with. 40 notices were carried forward to be dealt with in 1958.

Damage by Mining Subsidence.

Many parts of the town continued to be affected by mining subsidence. So long as the present system continues this must be accepted as a necessary evil. Close liaison is maintained with the Land and Mineral Officers of the National Coal Board in all three of the Areas concerned in the district. Delay in making good such damage is thus minimised. A constant watch is maintained on affected property in order that action might be taken without delay should danger arise.

Many of the areas which were previously reported as being affected by subsidence must once again be included as containing houses and other premises which were damaged. These were Littlefield Lane, Station Road, Edward Street, Hough Lane, Wombwell Main, Broomhill, Barnsley Road, Aldham Cottages, Wilson Street and part of the Wilson Street Estate, Brampton Road, Summer Lane, Wombwell, Cemetery Road and Garden Grove, Hemingfield and Church Street, Jump.

The worst affected was the area known as New Wombwell, i.e. Wath Road and Brampton Road. A group of 40 houses in this district of a sub-standard type and scheduled for demolition in the first 5 years of the Slum Clearance Programme were affected very suddenly and seriously. It would have been advantageous to rehouse the occupants of the houses but since this was not possible meetings were arranged with the owners and the National Coal Board and those repairs which could be carried out were effected immediately and others at a later date. Such houses as these, of poor construction and in poor condition are naturally more badly affected than the sounder properties.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of dwelling houses in the District	5848
Number of back-to-back houses included in above	2

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 946
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1895
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations Nil.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses needing further action :—
- (a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 93
- (b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 171

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.	
(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	898
(b) Number of defective houses (excluding those shown in (a) above) in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	75
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
A. Proceedings under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	51
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	44
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	4
C. Proceedings under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957. (Demolition Orders).	
(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation	34
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	34
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.
(4) Any action under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 ? If so, what ?	Nil.

D. Proceedings under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957. (Closing Orders).

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil. |

E. Proceedings under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957, and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 (Clearance Areas).

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of Clearance Areas represented during the year | 2 |
| (2) Number of houses included in these areas | 27 |
| (3) Number of persons to be displaced | 73 |
| (4) Action taken during the year in respect of Clearance Areas :— | |
| (a) by Clearance Orders, number made | 1 |
| (b) by Compulsory Purchase Orders, number made | None |
| (5) Number of houses in Clearance Areas demolished during the year | Nil. |
| (6) Number of persons re-housed from houses demolished during the year | Nil. |

4. **Overcrowding.**

- | | |
|--|------|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 325 |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein | 534 |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein | 1579 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 65 |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 26 |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases | 115 |

5. **New Houses.**

Number of new houses provided during the year :—

By the Local Authority	4
By Private Enterprise	13

6. **Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Rent Act, 1957.**

Details of Advances for the purpose of acquiring or constructing houses None

Details of Grants for conversion of buildings into houses, or for altering, enlarging, repairing, or improving houses. **Grants made in 26 cases.**

Milk Supply.

The Urban District was designated a special area under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Area) Order, 1953, and since that time all milk retailed within the district has been sold under Special Designations.

There was some prejudice at the outset, especially amongst older people, against this method of distributing milk. Gradually the criticism has subsided and it is seldom that one now hears any reference to the “old methods” of retailing milk. Even the minority of dissenters have now accepted that it is far safer and infinitely more convenient to receive their milk supply in sealed, hygienic containers.

Of the milk produced in your area, that at five farms is Ungraded and is sent for Pasteurisation. At the remaining seven farms, including the five largest herds, Tuberculin Tested Milk is produced, but only in two cases is it retailed in this area. In addition, a large quantity of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) is retailed in the area. The milk produced and consumed within the Urban District continues to be of a high quality.

Regular supervision of milk distribution was once again a feature of the Department’s activities and contact is maintained with the suppliers in order that improvements may be effected as necessary. To this end samples of milk were procured for the routine Methylene Blue Reduction and Phosphatase Tests and all milk sold in the raw state was, in addition, tested at least quarterly, for the presence of the Tubercle Bacillus, and Brucella Abortus.

There are altogether 37 Retail Milk sellers registered whose premises are inspected at regular intervals.

155 samples of milk were taken and despatched to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Wakefield. The staff of the Laboratory are always extremely helpful and a high value is placed on their services. The results of the tests carried out are given below.

Samples of Milk taken for Examination during 1957.

TYPE OF MILK	TYPE OF TEST AND RESULT					
	Methylene Blue		Phosphatase		Presence of Tuberculosis	
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Neg- ative	Pos- itive
Ungraded	28	2	—	—	14	—
Tuberculin Tested	37	1	—	—	20	—
Pasteurised	11	—	11	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	4	—	4	—	—	—

In addition 4 samples of Sterilised milk satisfied the Turbidity Test.

In cases where unsatisfactory reports were received from the Laboratory, action was taken with the Area Milk Officer and the necessary improvements secured.

Distribution of Milk.

At the end of the year there were on the register 37 Distributors of Milk, 31 of these in general shops. The following licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	3
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)"	1
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	4
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	33
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	1

Meat Supply.

The main part of the town's meat supply is brought from a Public Abattoir in a neighbouring town. The abattoir had been extended and provided facilities for the slaughter and hanging of meat in modern conditions.

Meat is brought into the town and delivered direct to the retailers in covered, metal-lined vans with good hanging facilities. However, even with these closed, hygienic vans, careless or rough handling of the meat can lead to it being damaged and contaminated. Isolated instances of such mal-practice were seen and dealt with as were cases in which the meat handlers were not wearing the required type of overalls and head covers. A constant watch was maintained throughout the year to ensure that the meat supply is handled and transported in as clean and safe a way as possible. Whilst there is no place for complacency it can be said that meat handling showed some improvement during the year.

Food Preparing Premises, Shops and Markets.

It is not possible to devote sufficient time to food premises but as many visits as possible are paid to these places. The town has a great number of shops, bakehouses and other food premises in relation to the size of the population and in a matter so important to the health of the community it is felt that considerable advantage would be gained by making longer and more frequent visits to them. The inspections were made as follows :—

	Number of Premises	Number of Inspections
(a) Butchers Shops	17	169
(b) Grocers and General Dealers	84	236
(c) Fried Fish Shops	14	35
(d) Wet Fish Shops	2	17
(e) Greengrocers	5	15
(f) Bakehouses	10	114
(g) Meat Products	6	52
(h) Markets	2	199
(i) Canteens and Cafes	9	16

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

The number of premises registered under this section is as follows :—

Manufacture of Meat Products (Sausage, etc.)	6
Manufacture or sale of Ice-Cream	51

Food Hygiene.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 have now been in operation for two complete years and it is possible to report that some progress has been made. During the year improvements were secured at 33 food premises, including 4 Canteens, 1 Licensed Premises, 2 Bakehouses and 26 Food Shops.

When the Regulations first became operative all their many implications were discussed with the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspectors in the other Urban Districts forming the Health Division. After many meetings we prepared a series of suggested standards and interpretations within the framework of the Regulations. It was felt that these would secure some measure of uniformity in the application of the Regulations to the premises in our several Urban Districts. Standards were prepared for each type of premises as follows and were brought into use after being formally laid before the Council and approved.

(1) Basic Standards for all Food Premises.

- (a) Additional Requirements for Bakehouses.
- (b) Additional Requirements for Butchers Shops and Meat Manufacturing Premises.
- (c) Additional Requirements for Cafes, Canteens, Restaurant Kitchens, etc.
- (d) Additional Requirements for Fried Fish Shops.
- (e) Additional Requirements for General Dealers (House Shops).
- (f) Additional Requirements for Licensed Premises and Clubs.
- (g) Additional Requirements for Wet Fish Shops.

(2) Basic Standards for all Mobile Vehicles.

- (a) Additional Requirements for Meat and Meat Products.
- (b) Additional Requirements for Wet Fish.

In securing compliance with the Regulations the greatest difficulty was experienced where a room at the front of domestic premises has been converted to a shop and a wide range of foodstuffs and other articles are sold. In every case a supply of hot water had been secured in the living room behind the shop and considered to be "within reasonable distance" as was required by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

This arrangement had functioned very well. Especially since in most cases the sanitary convenience was situated at the rear of such premises and after using the convenience the food handler, usually the owner of the business or one of his family, had automatically stopped at the sink and washed his hands before re-entering the shop.

Under the new Regulations the washing facilities must be on the food premises, and since that part of the building which is devoted to domestic use cannot be considered business premises, the hot water supply and washing facilities must now be provided in, or immediately adjacent to, the shop. The domestic sink cannot be accepted as providing the washing facilities for the shop.

Even though the necessary washing facilities have now been provided in many cases one wonders whether they will be used. In a number of instances the new arrangement has been found to be an advantage and efforts will be continued to secure compliance with this and other provisions of the Regulations.

Major improvements were secured at one Canteen consisting of alterations to walls, ceiling, floors, tables, ventilation, sinks, etc. Washing Accommodation was secured in one bakehouse, one Licensed Premises, and 16 food shops, refrigerators installed in 18 shops, food protection cases in 18 shops, one shop was completely modernised as a self service store, additional sanitary accommodation secured in 3 cases, and other minor matters involving repairs to walls, floors, counters, etc., and provision of First Aid Boxes.

The standard of food handling in the town is reasonable but there is room for a lot of improvement. The greatest single factor which can achieve the necessary improvement is increased awareness amongst the public, particularly housewives, that they can achieve far more than any legislation. The customer, by demanding a higher standard of food handling, will find that the reputable food trader will gladly respond. Indeed, he will welcome it. It is annoying to the food trader that he has provided good, hygienic premises in which food is prepared and stored, only to find that when the food is handed over the counter it is handled carelessly and placed next to an obviously dirty article, or in a dirty bag, or against outer clothing.

Markets.

That part of the Food Hygiene Regulations which applies to foodstalls is a lot less stringent than for permanent shops. This leads regrettably to the handling and sale of food by people who in many cases are not considered satisfactory. They are as much a problem to the reputable market trader as to the Local Authority's officers. The minimum standard required by the Regulations is low and the unscrupulous trader all too frequently does just sufficient to meet these minimum requirements.

Everything possible is done to have food in the markets protected against contamination but certain types of foods which are not cooked before eating such as cooked meats, pies, cheese, biscuits, etc., should not be exposed for sale in the open air as it is virtually impossible to give them the measure of protection that food should have.

Hawkers of Food.

A radical change has been secured in this traditional form of food trading. The West Riding (General Powers) Act, 1951 Section 76 empowered Local Authorities to secure the registration of Hawkers of Food. The Council have adopted this section and by the end of the year 33 hawkers had been registered. They were required to comply with the Standards for Mobile Vehicles and in many cases excellent types of mobile shops have been brought into use. This is a most welcome improvement.

Ice-Cream — Manufacture and Sale.

There are within your district 2 premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

In addition there are 49 shops registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream only, which is stored in refrigerators. The wisdom of encouraging the sale of wrapped ice-cream from shops is undeniable and obviously ensures that this popular commodity is retailed in safe, clean conditions.

58 samples of ice-cream were obtained during the year and the results of the examination of these samples are shown below.

	Samples number of Total	Provisional Grades			
		1.	2.	3.	4.
Manufacturer No. 1	5	4	—	1	—
Manufacturer No. 2	6	6	—	—	—
Manufacturer No. 3	5	5	—	—	—
Manufacturer No. 4	3	3	—	—	—
Manufacturer No. 5	6	6	—	—	—
Manufacturer No. 6	6	5	1	—	—
Manufacturer No. 7	6	6	—	—	—
Manufacturer No. 8	3	3	—	—	—
Manufacturer No. 9	5	3	1	1	—
Manufacturer No. 10	2	2	—	—	—
Manufacturer No. 11	6	5	1	—	—
Manufacturer No. 12	2	2	—	—	—
Manufacturer No. 13	3	3	—	—	—
TOTALS	58	53	3	2	—

In the case of manufacturer No. 9 evidence of faulty storage was discovered and the defect corrected. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Unsound Food.

Quantities of foodstuffs which were inspected and found to be unfit were disposed of according to circumstances. A detailed list of food so condemned is shown below.

Hams	253 lbs.	11 ozs.
Luncheon Meat	39 lbs.	4 ozs.
Stewed Steak	28 lbs.	$\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
Corned Beef	96 lbs.	9 ozs.
Tongues	25 lbs.	15 ozs.
Bacon	234 lbs.	8 ozs.
Pork	125 lbs.	12 ozs.
Other Meats	4 lbs.	4 ozs.
Sausage	30 lbs.	8 ozs.
Chicken	4 lbs.	0 ozs.
Canned Fruit	421 lbs.	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
Canned Tomatoes	278 lbs.	11 ozs.
Canned Fish	15 lbs.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
Canned Milk	29 lbs.	10 ozs.
Canned Vegetables	115 lbs.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
Mixed Goods	218 lbs.	12 ozs.
Cheese	18 lbs.	4 ozs.
Cake	2 lbs.	0 ozs.

All unsound food is disposed of by treating with lime and burying beneath town's refuse.

Water Supply.

The Dearne Valley Water Board is the water undertaking for this area and water supplied by them is of a good bacteriological standard. Samples are taken regularly in different parts of the area.

During the year a number of Council owned properties were found upon investigation to have an inadequate supply. Action was taken to secure an improvement in all cases discovered. Scraping and pressure cleaning of the service secured the desired improvement in all cases.

Of 5,848 occupied houses in the township 5,842 are on the public supply. 18,957 people occupy these 5,842 houses. The remaining 6 houses have water laid on from private supplies. In all cases, except one farmhouse, water is laid on direct to the houses.

Additional water mains were laid on to serve new houses as they were erected in the Council's Housing Estate at Wilson Street, in Lundhill Road and on Aldham House Lane where new houses are being erected by Private Enterprise.

Atmospheric Pollution.

During the year 29 observations were made and smoke of such colour and density as to constitute a nuisance was emitted from the boiler chimneys at Michell Main and Wombwell Main Collieries and at the Wombwell Public Baths chimney.

The chimneys at Wombwell Main Colliery boiler plant were observed on several occasions and showed a deterioration on previous years. There have been occasions, especially at midday and in the evening when smoke has been seen issuing from one or both chimneys for lengthy periods. The Colliery is situated in a valley and the houses in Aldham House Lane, which are very near, are on a higher level than the chimney tops. The slightest emission of smoke or grit therefore is soon noticed. Although not entirely satisfactory, the situation is a vast improvement on what it was prior to the boilers being equipped with automatic stoking gear.

The Mitchell Main boiler chimney gave cause for complaint but no improvements were requested since the plant closed down during the year.

Complaints were again received from residents in the neighbourhood of the Public Baths where the chimney is very low and emissions, especially of soot, are excessive. Urgent consideration should be given to the question of effecting a permanent improvement, thus eliminating a source of nuisance.

The chimneys at Parkhill Brickworks and Messrs. Woods Glassworks did not give rise to any complaint. Observations were made, however, and emissions of black smoke were recorded.

Complaints continued to be received from persons living in the Lundhill Road area of falling soot and clouds of smoke from Cortonwood Colliery which is situated in an adjoining area.

Spoil Banks.

A constant watch is kept on all the colliery spoilbanks in the area and on one in an adjoining area which frequently causes complaint to be received from residents in Beech House Road, Hemmingfield.

(a) Mitchell Main Colliery.

The spoilbank has shown no sign of overheating.

(b) Darfield Main Colliery.

(1) Littlefield Lane Spoil Bank.

Efforts were continued to extinguish the fires and there was considerable improvement during the year.

(2) Netherwood Road Spoil Bank.

This, a relatively new spoil bank, is controlled at an agreed level by means of a bulldozer. There was no sign of overheating.

(c) Wombwell Main Colliery.

This is a very large and awkwardly shaped stack. During the year it was necessary to draw the attention of the management to two areas of the stack where fires occurred and the necessary control measures were applied.

(d) Cortonwood Colliery.

This stack is situated outside the district but the fires have been so serious and the pollution so heavy that close contact has been made for some years with the Public

Health Inspector to Rotherham Rural District Council, the Chief Inspector to the Sheffield and Rotherham Clean Air Committee and the Colliery Engineer. There was slight improvement during the year. A new stack has been commenced and this is being controlled by levelling and consolidation using bulldozers. In addition, regular checks are made on temperatures at different levels in the stack. This is a very welcome improvement.

In all cases where industrial furnaces, spoil banks and other non-domestic sources of pollution are concerned regular contact is maintained with managements in an effort to reduce such pollution to a minimum.

Non Industrial Pollution.

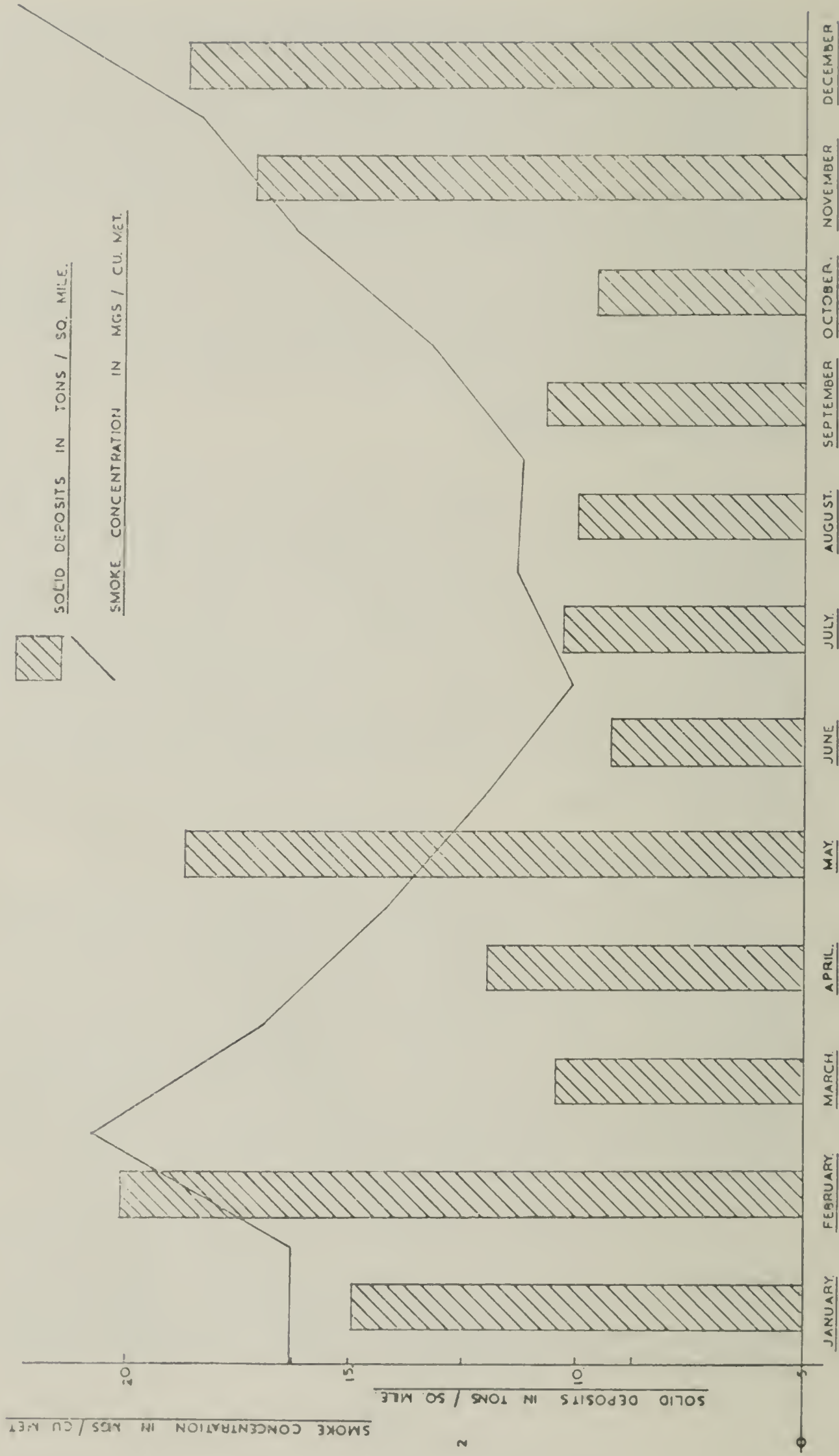
The chimneys connected with industrial plant are obvious to everyone and an emission of smoke from such chimneys is easily seen. It is true, of course, that pollution does arise from such a source but, when it is considered that there are 5,848 occupied houses in the town in most of which valuable bituminous coal is burned carelessly and wastefully, then one begins to realise that domestic chimneys produce by far the greatest amount of pollution. It is all the more serious when it is realised that the miner has worked hard in dangerous conditions to produce coal and above half of his effort goes up the chimney in smoke which can be detrimental to that same man's health.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

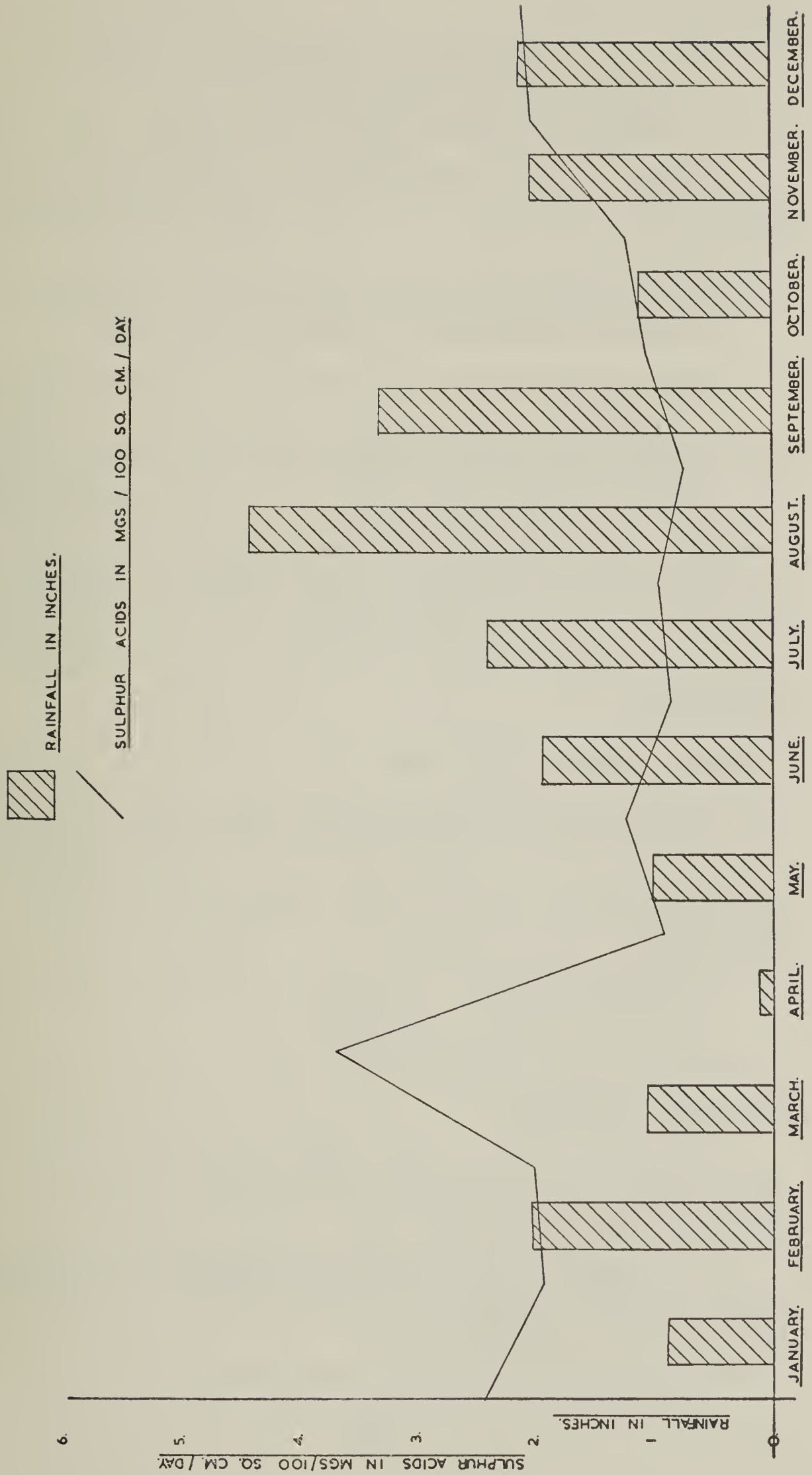
This Act came into operation last year but will not become completely effective until next year. Everything has been done to encourage the installation of smokeless fuel appliances in houses and in factories but no real headway can be made in reducing the level of atmospheric pollution in an area such as this so long as vast quantities of bituminous coal continue to be burned. There are many miners in the area and these receive a large amount of concessionary coal annually. This is traditionally a part of the miners' wages and there is no suggestion that it be prejudiced.

It is hoped that the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Coal Board will be able to come to some amicable arrangement which will maintain the miner's rights and yet enable him to receive a regular amount of a "cleaner" fuel. Only then can some headway be made in this area towards achieving a better atmosphere.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION IN WOMBELL URBAN DISTRICT 1957.



ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION IN WOMBWELL URBAN DISTRICT 1957



Factories Act, 1937.

There are on the register 58 Factories as follows :—

Factories with Mechanical Power	47
Factories without Mechanical Power	11

Included in this total number of factories there are ten bakehouses to which 114 visits were made. 137 visits to other factories were recorded.

Informal action was taken requiring the following :—

Cleanliness (8). Sanitary Accommodation (20).

All these defects had been remedied by the end of the year.

One Certificate of “Means of Escape in Case of Fire” under Section 34 of the Act was issued. This was in respect of a large printing works, Messr. A. Taylor & Sons Ltd. A Certificate had been issued some years ago but extensions, additions and alterations had been carried out and the new Certificate covered the whole of the factory as comprised at the time of inspection. Detailed plans were prepared in my office to accompany the Certificates. This is a considerable help to the Factory Occupier, the Factory Inspector and to my Department.

Shops Act, 1950. Section 38.

54 visits were made to shops for the purpose of this Act. It is generally found that the premises inspected meet the requirements of this Section of the Act. 8 offences against the Act were discovered and all were remedied. The defects were as follows :—

Inadequate heating	2
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	3
No washing accommodation	3

Moveable Dwellings.

One dwelling of this type which has been on its present site for many years remained on the register at the end of the year. It is unsatisfactory.

Ten other caravans were parked on land in the district without licence. These were removed within a few days as the result of informal action.

22 inspections were made during the year.

Verminous Premises.

No Council owned houses and 10 privately owned houses have been disinfested during the year. They were mainly light bug infestations. In addition a powder insecticide is issued free of charge and many requests are received for advice on eradication of cockroaches.

Terminal Disinfection.

In certain cases of infectious disease, whether the treatment is at home or in hospital, terminal disinfection is carried out. During the year 64 houses were so disinfected.

Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trades within your district.

Rodent Control.

Particular attention has been given to all known sources of infestation, including refuse tips, sewage works, and allotments which have been regularly surveyed and treated when necessary.

All food premises, shops, canteens, etc., are inspected for evidence of infestation during the course of normal routine visits. Advice has been given on rodent proofing and other control measures. Several minor infestations of mice had been discovered in this way and successfully dealt with by the Department.

Two sewer treatments have been carried out during the year and the results have been most encouraging showing that the regular treatment of sewers in your District over the past thirteen years has kept infestation at a very low level.

Two of your employees have been trained in modern methods of Rodent Control and one of these men is employed as much as possible on this work. As much time as possible is devoted to Rodent Control.

Any complaints have been dealt with as quickly as possible. The following is an analysis of the work carried out during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1958.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				(5)
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All Other (inc. Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	15	5883	321	6219	27
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	—	36	12	48	2
(b) Survey under the Act	15	669	36	720	27
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose).	—	—	203	203	—
3. Total inspections carried out-including re-inspections	179	705	1055	1939	42
4. Number of properties inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	6	159	1	166	1
(b) Mice Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	2	17	9	28	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Section 4) treated by the Local Authority	8	176	10	194	1
6. Total treatments carried out-including re-treatments	14	176	10	200	1
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" Control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

Hairdressers and Barbers.

Since the Council made Byelaws in 1953, hairdressers and barbers have been registered. There were on the register at the end of 1957, 19 premises. 30 inspections were made during the year. The standard of cleanliness maintained is reasonably good.

Public Conveniences.

No new buildings were erected during the year and there is still need for further and improved public conveniences.

The Ladies and Gentlemens conveniences in Station Road were built over 30 years ago and do not meet modern requirements. During the year the room which had been adapted to provide washing accommodation for Ladies was brought into use. The walls of both conveniences which consist of glazed bricks, are badly discoloured and crazy, the floors are unsatisfactory and there are no washing facilities for gentlemen. An additional block of public conveniences could with advantage be erected in the old market place. Such conveniences are also required in other parts of the town.

Every effort is made to maintain the conveniences in a clean and efficient condition at all times but considerable difficulty is experienced in achieving this due to the gross amount of wilful damage done to equipment and fittings. Appeals to the public to safeguard public property appear to have little effect.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Type of Convenience	Number	Percentage
Water Closets 	7127	99.47
Pail Closets 	28	.39
Privy Middens 	10	.14

20 W.C.'s were constructed for new houses and other property and 33 additional W.C.'s were provided for old property.

PUBLIC CLEANSING — 1957.

Collection.

This service is carried out entirely by the Council's own employees and four vehicles are employed. They are all special purpose, side-loading vehicles, three having a capacity of 3 tons and the other one 2 tons. All four lorries are well maintained, kept well painted and clean and are a credit to the township.

With very little exception a weekly collection was maintained throughout the year. Extreme difficulty was experienced at times due to the shortage, or unsuitability of labour. This is obviously a great handicap which is accentuated during holiday and sickness periods. Householders generally appreciate the high standard of the service maintained and are tolerant of any delay during the times of difficulty. In order to ensure that the work was carried out the Council authorised the working of overtime on Saturday morning during the summer and during the week in winter.

The staff engaged on these duties are provided with donkey jackets, overalls, gloves, eyeshields and protective barrier cream.

The weighing of refuse was continued and this makes for greater accuracy in the compilation of the following statistics.

During the year 3,276 loads of refuse were collected as follows :—

Type of Vehicle	No. of Loads	No. of Tons	No. of Working Days	Daily Average Loads	Daily Average Weight Tons
No. 1 Lorry. 40 cwt.	346	778	271	1.27	2.87
No. 2 Lorry. 60 cwt.	979	2937	294	3.33	9.99
No. 3 Lorry. 60 cwt.	893	2679	295	3.02	9.09
No. 4 Lorry. 60 cwt.	1058	3174	302	3.50	10.52

It is estimated that 3,276 loads weighed 9,568 tons.

The estimated weight collected per 1,000 premises was 1,582 tons.

The estimated weight collected per 1,000 population was 503.6 tons.

The average estimated amount of refuse collected from each house during the year was 1 ton 11.64 cwt.

Disposal.

The whole of the town's refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and this is done efficiently and with the least possible nuisance.

Since the angledozer and scraper were purchased at the beginning of 1955 for the purpose of controlling the disposal of the town's refuse, this work has been carried out far more satisfactorily than was ever possible by hand control. In these days of labour difficulty it is imperative that as much work as possible should be carried out by mechanical means. The expenditure incurred in discharging such an important part of a Local Authority's duties as the disposal of town's refuse may not at first sight appear to be wholly justifiable. If it is considered however, what inconvenience, and disease would be suffered if this duty were not efficiently carried out, I suggest that it would be readily conceded that the price paid is not high. In addition, it is hoped that it will be possible to put to good use the land, which was at one time boggy and useless.

Top soil is removed before the land is tipped on, the refuse is consolidated in comparatively thin layers and the soil is replaced on top of the refuse. In following this procedure there has been a noticeable reduction in the amount of vermin and insects, there is less tendency to fire, there is less danger to vehicles running over the tip and the use of sleepers has been eliminated. The cost of disposal of refuse has risen but the benefits accruing from the introduction of mechanical control outweigh the increase.

The exposed face of the tip was treated regularly with powdered insecticide and there was no appreciable trouble from flies, crickets or woodlice.

The refuse was disposed of as follows :—

Place	Number of Loads	Percentage
Brampton Road Tip	3276	100

CLEANSING COSTS.

	Collection			Disposal			Total		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cost per estimated ton		17	4		4	1	1	1	5
Cost per 1,000 population	435	17	10	105	8	5	541	6	3
Cost per 1,000 premises	1369	12	1	331	4	9	1700	16	10
INCOME	1570	0	0	80	0	0	1650	0	0
NETT COSTS	8282	0	0	2003	0	0	10,285	0	0

The rate required for Public Cleansing (Street Cleaning excluded) was 1s. 9.8d.

Municipal Dust Bin Scheme.

Since the Council undertook to supply refuse bins to domestic premises under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, 3,216 worn out bins have been replaced, 351 during the year under review.

There is little doubt that the operation of such a scheme as this is beneficial in many ways and the fact of having a good standard of refuse storage accommodation has been one of the factors in maintaining a weekly collection of domestic refuse.

Trade Refuse.

The Council has arrangements to remove trade refuse from 22 different premises. Such refuse is cleared twice weekly, and when circumstances necessitate it, butchers' and fishmongers' waste is removed more frequently.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

A total of 1,099 inspections were made to investigate nuisances and 1,355 re-visits were recorded.

291 Informal Notices were served and of these 251 were complied with. 40 relating to 40 nuisances were carried forward.

During the year 964 complaints were received and all were dealt with.

A considerable amount of time is taken up in interviewing tenants, owners, contractors, estate agents, etc., at the office and at various types of property. There were 1,560 such interviews during the year.

The following defects were remedied after the service of informal or formal notices, or after interview with the persons concerned.

Repairs to Houses.

Made dry — roof	97
Made dry — spouting	89
Made dry — Pointing or Structural Plaster	37
Damp Proof Course inserted	12
Plasterwork repaired	94
Floors repaired	35
Window frames repaired or renewed	43
Door frames and Doors repaired or renewed	49
Fireranges repaired or renewed	74
Firebacks repaired or renewed	44
Coppers reset or renewed	19
Copper firegrates renewed	20
Sinks renewed	40
Sash cords renewed	42
Chimneys repaired	57
Handrails fixed	4

Drainage.

Drains reconstructed, repaired or opened out	37
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	35
Inspections chamber covers renewed	21
Sink gullies renewed	28
Vent. shafts provided or repaired	7
Inspection chambers constructed	15
Choked drains cleared	455

Sanitary Accommodation.

Water closet fittings repaired or renewed	97
Water service pipes repaired	57
Water closet structural repairs	25
Additional sanitary accommodation	29
Dust bins renewed or provided	351

Miscellaneous.

Yards paved or pavement renewed	15
Larger diameter water services installed	26
Steps repaired	4
Accumulations of refuse cleared	36
Boundary and screen walls rebuilt	6
Water services repaired	15
Verminous houses cleansed	10
Permanent ventilation provided	26
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	18
Food stores provided	6
Coal stores provided	10
Taps renewed	16

Referred to other Departments :

Water Board 26.

Surveyor 41.

61 of the above matters were dealt with by statutory notices where owners or persons concerned failed within a reasonable time to abate nuisances or to execute works required.

47 of these notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1936, 37 relating to nuisances, 6 to sanitary accommodation and 4 to the provision of drainage. 40 of these notices had been complied with at the end of the year. It was necessary in one case to resort to Court action and an Order was obtained. In 4 cases the work was carried out in default of the owner.

14 notices were served under Section 35 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. They were served in cases of urgency where having regard to all the circumstances, there would have been unreasonable delay in remedying the defect by following the procedure prescribed by Sections 93 to 95 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The Local Authority is empowered to carry out necessary works within 9 days and to charge the owner with the cost thereof. In 9 cases the work was executed in default of the owner.

Salvage Reclamation.

The gross income derived from Salvage during the year ended 31st March, 1958 was £1,519 6s. 5d. There is a slight fall compared with the previous year. This is accounted for largely by a fall in prices and a slight reduction in the amount of waste paper collected.

The following table gives details of articles salvaged together with the amounts received for them.

Salvaged Materials	Weight				Value		
	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	144	13	2	—	1296	2	1
Textiles	4	13	2	4	89	14	2
Ferrous Metals	16	9	—	—	80	0	3
Non-ferrous Metals	—	15	—	12	53	9	11
TOTALS:	166	11	—	16	£1519	6	5

The salvage of waste paper was commenced by the Department in 1940.

Since that time to the end of March, 1958, 2,052 tons of waste paper have been collected. The income derived from these sales amounts to £16,216.

SECTION V.

DIVISIONAL STAFF.

Divisional Medical Officer : R. Barnes, B.A., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officers : T. F. M. Jackson,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S. (app. August, 1957)

S. G. A. Henriques, M.B., Ch.B.

Clinic Medical Officers :

Dr. J. S. L. Allott,
Dr. C. B. Ball,
Dr. J. H. Fairclough,
Dr. H. W. Gothard,
Dr. G. Ingram,
Dr. J. Leishman,
Dr. K. Mathers,

Dr. W. G. S. Maxwell,
Dr. N. M. Piercy,
Dr. J. H. Ritchie,
Dr. M. Scott,
Dr. M. E. Tapissier,
Dr. L. Taylor,
Dr. J. W. Whitworth.

Health Visitors :

M. Baker, Miss
B. Clarke, Mrs.
D. Gibson, Mrs.
A. M. Harston, Mrs.
B. Hunter, Miss
A. E. Jackson, Mrs.
(App. 14.1.57, res. 30/9/57)
M. E. Lee, Miss

G. M. Lodge, Mrs.
F. A. Manley, Mrs.
H. Thorpe, Miss
(res. 30/9/57)
C. Totty, Mrs.
D. Westerman, Miss
F. H. Whittlestone, Miss
A. M. Widdison, Mrs.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor :

M. Mellor, Miss

E. Beever, Mrs.

Midwives :

K. Burgin, Miss
(res. 30.7.57)
M. Caton, Miss
(res. 11.9.57)
E. Cheetham, Mrs.
D. Crossley, Miss
B. Fitzpatrick, Mrs.
C. M. Hill, Mrs.
I. O. Kilner, Mrs.
E. Leather, Mrs.

M. Marsland, Mrs.
D. Newton, Mrs.
E. Parkes, Mrs.
E. A. Staley, Mrs.
M. Walters, Mrs.
E. Ward, Mrs.
M. Wroe, Mrs.
B. Horsfield, Mrs.
(app. 14.10.57)

Home Nurses :

M. Allen, Mrs.
F. G. Cartwright, Mrs.
N. C. Crofton, Miss
E. Cross, Mrs.
R. Edwards, Mrs.
K. M. Hanson, Mrs.
(res. 1.7.57)
M. Johnson, Miss
C. D. Lee, Miss
M. McConnell, Mrs.

H. Padgett, Mrs.
B. Parker, Mrs.
R. E. Scott, Miss
(app. 1.5.57)
A. P. Tibbitts, Miss
(res. 28.2.57)
I. D. Thomas, Mrs.
E. A. Walker, Miss
K. Winterburn, Mrs.
(app. 15.8.57)

Mental Health Social Worker : M. Webster, Mrs.

Mental Health Home Teacher : E. Harrott, Mrs. (App. Sept., 1957)

Speech Therapist : S. Smith, Miss (App. 1.10.57)

Duly Authorised Officers : H. Nettleton, Mr., J. Hyland, Mr.

Senior Clerk : L. S. Wrigg, Mr.

DIVISIONAL REPORT.**Vital Statistics.**

I have compiled a comparative table of the vital statistics for each of the County districts comprising Division No. 25, which I feel may be of interest to each separate authority in assessing how they stand in relation to the local figures generally.

Births.

The number of live births registered in the divisional area in 1957 was 1,304. This is equivalent to a crude birth rate of 17.2 per 1,000. There were 30 stillbirths giving a stillbirth rate of 22.5.

Deaths.

The deaths assigned to the divisional area after the addition and deduction of inward and outward transfers was 628, giving a crude death rate for the division of 8.3. You will notice in the table that this is lower than any of the other figures given for individual districts, but the other figures show adjusted rates. Unfortunately, no adjusted rate is available for the division.

Infant Mortality.

There were 34 infant deaths in the division during the year, of which 27 occurred in the neo-natal period. This gives an infant mortality rate for the division of 26.1.

Vaccination and Immunisation Statistics.

I give a table showing the statistics with regard to vaccination and immunisation during 1957. Smallpox vaccination again did not prove a very popular measure. There were slight fluctuations in individual districts, but in the main the proportion of infants immunised in the division remained about constant.

Towards the end of the year a scheme was introduced whereby at the discretion of medical officers a combined triple vaccine could be used against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus. This vaccine was not introduced until November, and since three doses were required at monthly intervals, it could have no effect on the statistics for 1957. Nevertheless, in a full year I have hopes that a reduction in the number of injections will go some way to improving the statistics, particularly in relation to infancy, and it is to be hoped that more mothers will then be willing to accept smallpox immunisation. I think that the table is clear and informative and calls for no comment.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The number of cases attended by domiciliary midwives was 678. This compares with 655 hospital confinements. Thus, in this division, domiciliary midwives still account for over 50% of births during the year. During 1957 we started to see a decline in the midwifery staff available. This state of affairs continued and accelerated during 1958. I am afraid that the salary, and more particularly the conditions of service of domiciliary midwives, are not conducive to recruiting younger members of the profession into district service. Many of our midwives in the division are fast approaching retirement age, and I am afraid serious consideration will have to be given at national level if domiciliary midwifery is to continue as part of our integrated health service. New cases attending local health ante-natal clinics in the division was 710 and the total number of attendances was 3,874.

199 mothers attended post-natal clinics and made 211 attendances.

District	Acres	Population Registrar's Estimate Mid. 1957	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	Death Rate per 1,000 pop.	Stillbirth Rate	Infant Death Rate
CUDWORTH	1,746	8,830	18.8	13.7	38.9	28.9
DARFIELD	2,018	6,500	18.8	11.4	8.1	16.4
DARTON	4,726	14,630	14.4	14.7	22.7	23.3
DODWORTH	1,857	4,200	14.5	15.1	46	16.1
ROYSTON	1,452	8,270	16.8	11.7	20.5	35.0
WOMBWELL	3,850	18,990	17.3	11.5	15.0	27.4
WORSBROUGH	3,420	14,500	18	12.6	22.5	26.8
RATES FOR THE DIVISION	20,099	75,920	17.2	8.3	22.5	26.1
RATES FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY			16.6	12.9	23.9	26.4

District	Pop- ulation	Smallpox Vaccinations		Whooping Cough immu- nisations		Diphtheria Immunisations			Poliomyelitis Immunisation	
		No.	%	No.	%	Years 0—15	Years 0—4	Years 5—15	No. com- pleted	No. wait- ing
CUDWORTH	8,830	53	30	90	53	73.5	42.4	88.3	127	804
DARFIELD	6,500	64	52.4	47	38.5	87.3	60.5	100	383	709
DARTON	14,630	66	31	42	20	58.6	45.7	63.8	424	888
DODWORTH	4,200	15	24	36	58	71	40.3	82.8	205	313
ROYSTON	8,270	28	19	98	68	70.9	44.9	82.9	264	634
WOMBWELL	18,990	85	25.9	127	40	60.9	35.5	71.9	582	1,534
WORSBROUGH	14,500	48	18.0	90	34	72.2	37.5	88	319	1,030
RATES FOR THE DIVISION	75,920	359	28.2	530	41.5	Accurate divisional figures not available			2,304	5,912

Ante-Natal Clinic.

The ante-natal clinic in Wombwell, which is situated in the Public Library, Wombwell, on Thursday afternoons again suffered a decline during the year. 101 patients made 408 attendances compared with 154 patients making 556 attendances in 1956. 16 patients attended for post-natal examination. In contrast to this, the attendances at the Relaxation Clinic again rose from 655 in 1956 to 785 in 1957, an increase of over 20%. These sessions are held on Monday and Friday afternoons, and, as the figures indicate, are proving very popular with the mothers. At these classes mothers are taught the mechanisms of birth, and the whys and wherefores of each stage of labour, in addition to exercises and sensible tips in mothercraft.

It is my belief that here we have the forerunner of a new service which is providing expectant mothers with good health education at a time when they are most in need of it and are in receptive mood.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

Most of the infant welfare clinics in the division continued to thrive and 1,307 new cases attended under the age of one year. The total number of children attending local health authority clinics was 2,587.

At the Wombwell centre where 74 sessions were held 269 children made 4,428 attendances, an average of 59.8 per session. 217 children were seen for the first time, all of whom were under one year of age. 1,490 examinations were made by the doctor in the year, an average of 20 per session.

At the Jump Centre, where 49 sessions were held, 96 children made 1,045 attendances, an average of 21.3 per session. 58 children were seen for the first time, all of whom were under one year of age. 430 examinations were made by the doctor in the year, an average of 8.8 per session.

School Health Service.

It is with great regret that I have to report to you that routine work in the school health service suffered a decline in 1957. Routine medical examinations were few in some districts in the early part of the year because of lack of Medical staff. This deficiency was partially remedied by the

welcome appointment of Dr. Jackson in August, 1957, but some post-ponement of the programme had of necessity to take place because of the increased pressure of work caused by Poliomyelitis vaccination.

Specialists' clinics continued to be held during the year. Some in this office and some at the local hospitals by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board.

The Speech Therapy Service has been dormant for some time and the appointment of Miss S. Smith in October, 1957, was very welcome.

The tables show the work carried out in the school health service during the year.

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS FOUND.

				DEFECTS FOUND									
District				No. of children examined	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory	Ocular	E.N.T.	Heart	Orthopaedic	Lungs	Other	Passed for treatment
CUDWORTH	.....	.....	.....	583	581	2	97	48	10	19	13	60	71
DARFIELD	.....	.....	.....	173	172	1	9	13	4	5	6	12	13
DARTON	.....	.....	.....	684	682	2	112	42	6	31	15	61	73
DODWORTH	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ROYSTON	.....	.....	.....	456	453	3	69	28	5	9	13	45	59
WOMBWELL	.....	.....	.....	352	350	2	69	28	6	8	11	27	34
WORSBROUGH	.....	.....	.....	214	214	—	55	15	4	10	5	19	27
TOTAL	.....	.....	.....	2,462	2,452	10	411	174	35	82	63	224	277

SPECIALIST CLINICS.

Clinic	No. of attendances						
	Darton	Worsbrough	Darfield	Wombwell	Dodworth	Cudworth	Royston
OPHTHALMIC	153	261	128	374	83	229	139
ORTHOPAEDIC	19	19	10	9	8	43	30
EAR, NOSE AND THROAT	41	32	8	14	18	35	6
PAEDIATRIC	6	9	2	19	2	17	8
SPEECH THERAPY	10	5	3	14	3	8	7
CHILD GUIDANCE	9	3	1	16	—	17	5

Minor Ailments Clinics.

District	No. of children examined	Total attendances
DARTON	163	235
HIGHAM	84	115
STAINCROSS	61	66
WORSBROUGH BRIDGE	551	1,002
WORSBROUGH DALE	82	111
BLACKER HILL	72	151
DARFIELD	87	150
WOMBWELL	52	121
DODWORTH	66	83
CUDWORTH	48	73

School Clinics.

DARTON	162
HIGHAM	44
STAINCROSS	45
WORSBROUGH BRIDGE	110
DARFIELD	108
WOMBWELL	71
DODWORTH	26
CUDWORTH	221

Ultra-Violet Light Clinics.

WORSBROUGH DALE	19	115
WOMBWELL	17	115

B.C.G. Vaccination Scheme.

This scheme was continued during the year with the vaccination of children of 13 years and over. The response continued to be good, but still left room for improvement. I give below details of the B.C.G. programme carried out during the year.

School	No. of children tested	No. Positive	% Positive	No. Negative	No. Vaccinated
Cudworth S. M.	55	11	20.0	44	43
Darfield S. M.	102	32	31.4	70	67
Darton S. M.	139	25	18.0	114	110
Dodworth S. M.	54	24	44.4	30	30
Royston S. M.	71	12	17.0	59	49
Wombwell S. M.	148	56	38.0	92	88
Worsbrough S. M.	80	13	16.3	67	67
Divisional Total	649	173	26.6	476	464

Health Visiting.

This service continued during the year, and although the total number of staff was not fully up to establishment, some improvement occurred compared with 1956. During the year 12,640 visits were paid to infants under one year. The total number of visits made by health visitors during the year was 30,732, of which 20,084 were to pre-school children.

I still feel that there is need for greater co-operation between the general practitioner and the health visitors, and vice-versa. The degree of co-operation has improved, but still does not approach anything like the co-operation that exists between the general practitioners and the home nurses. I feel further improvement in this relationship would be to the benefit of both parties and to the patient.

Home Nursing.

The Home Nurses in the division made 56,396 visits last year. 47,642 of these being to medical cases. 7,978 were to surgical cases and 573 visits were made to tuberculosis patients. The total number of visits made during the year showed a slight increase, and the number of visits made for the purpose of injections rose by over 3,000 to 27,073. I

feel that with the present establishment of Home Nurses a peak has been reached in the number of visits made. There is obviously a limit to the amount of work which can be done by a given number of nurses. The number of visits made to old people over the age of 65 again accounted for nearly 62% of the total visits. 892 visits were made to children under five years of age. The home nursing service, in conjunction with the general practitioners of your area, is undoubtedly making a large contribution towards treating many patients in their own homes. But for this, I am afraid, the problem of chronic sick accommodation might be even worse than it is today.

Home Help Service.

The Home Help Service in the division continued to provide a service mainly for old people. 91% of the help was provided to people of 65 and over. The total number of cases provided with a home help was 568. Those cases received a total 89,241 hours. You will appreciate that all these cases were not operating at the same time, and during the last half of the year the average number of cases was 406 in any one week. The following is a table comparing the home help position over the past four years. You will see that in the division the number of cases has risen from 224 to 406 with very little corresponding increase in the total number of hours available. It is, therefore, inevitable that the number of hours per case has declined steadily. I do not think any further comment is required as the table speaks for itself.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

		No. of Cases		Average Hours per Case	
		1st half	Last half	1st half	Last half
		1954	1957	1954	1957
Cudworth	.....	31.5	58.5	7.0	3.5
Darfield	.....	28.0	40.5	6.8	3.8
Darton	.....	47.0	77.0	6.1	3.85
Dodworth	.....	9.0	19.0	6.6	6.0
Royston	.....	14.5	49.5	10.3	3.5
Wombwell		53.0	95.0	5.1	3.8
Worsbrough		41.0	66.5	6.0	4.9
Divisional Totals		224.0	406.0	6.4	3.9

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

Mental Deficiency.

A. Cases ascertained to be defective and subject to be dealt with during 1957.

Number in which action was taken on reports by :

		Under 16 yrs.		Over 16 yrs.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
i. Local Education Authority :					
a. While at school or liable to attend school		2	1	—	—
b. On leaving Special School		2	—	—	—
c. On leaving Ordinary School		3	1	—	—
ii. Police or by the Courts		—	—	—	—
iii. Other sources (transfers from other districts, etc.)		—	2	1	3
		7	4	1	3

B. Particulars of cases removed from the Register during 1957.

i. By reason of death	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—	—	1
ii. De-classified	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	2	1
iii. Removal to Mental Deficiency Hospitals	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—	4	—
iv. Transfers to other districts	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	1	1	2
					2	1	7	4

C. Particulars of cases on the Register at the 31st December, 1957.

i. Statutory Supervision	.....	.....	.....	19	19	54	62
ii. Voluntary Supervision	.....	.....	.....	—	—	21	22
iii. Under Guardianship	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—	3
iv. On Licence from Mental Deficiency Hospitals	.....	.....	.....	—	—	1	1
				19	19	76	83

Training Facilities for Mental Defectives.

This year there has been a considerable improvement in the training facilities available, principally because all the children on the waiting list under 16 years of age have been catered for as a result of the Occupation Centre at The Gables, Wombwell, opening at the beginning of the year.

As I reported last year, the Occupation Centre at Wombwell is primarily covering the Urban Districts of Darfield, Wombwell and Worsbrough ; and also a few children from the adjacent districts of Hoyland and Houghton. The children from the Urban Districts of Darton, Royston and Dodworth attend the Barnsley County Borough Occupation Centre and the children from Cudworth Urban District attend the Occupation Centre at Hemsworth.

For the first time, I am able to report that there is no waiting list for full-time training in respect of the children under 16 years of age. However, I am afraid that this happy state of affairs will be of short standing for the Wombwell Occupation Centre now has its full complement of 27, and the Hemsworth and Barnsley County Borough Occupation Centres are unlikely to be able to absorb more children from this Division as they will have their own commitments to fulfil.

However, as there are children over the age of 16 years in these Centres, it might be that they will have to be excluded to make way for the younger children, but I personally would regard this as a retrograde step, and am making strong representations to the West Riding County Council for extensions to be authorised at The Gables to provide for Workshops for adult male and female defectives.

Those adult defectives who are unemployable too are in great need of regular full-time occupation in order to give them a feeling of sufficiency and also a well regulated life away from the street corners and boredom.

In all there are 14 males and 46 females who are receiving full-time or part-time training, by way of attending Occupation Centres and Group Training Classes or being visited by the Home Teacher in their homes. If my suggestion for the extensions at The Gables are accepted the majority could be catered for, especially if transport could be provided and the whole of the Division would be catered for at the Occupation Centre in Wombwell.

**Particulars of Mental Defectives from this Division attending
Occupation Centres at the 31st December, 1957.**

Occupation Centre	Supervisor	Under 15 years		Over 16 years	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Wombwell	Mrs. Large	5	9	2	3
Hemsworth	Miss Porter	—	2	—	—
Barnsley C. B.	Miss Smith	8	2	1	4
		13	13	3	7

Facilities available for the training of adult defectives at present, apart from those already in attendance at Occupation Centres, are restricted to Group Training Classes which are held once a week in Clinics in the Division, and also the Teacher visits a certain number at home who because of physical disability or domestic commitments are unable to attend the classes.

Wherever possible the defectives are encouraged to attend more than one class and vouchers are issued to cover their travelling expenses. The classes are of considerable benefit and the defectives are encouraged to do handicrafts, i.e. embroidery, knitting, rug making, leather work, dress-making, etc., and also attention is paid to personal cleanliness, physical recreation and social behaviour. Particulars of the classes are given below :

Day	Times	Clinic	Teacher
Monday,	 9.30 a.m. to 4.0 p.m.	The Darby and Joan Club, ROYSTON.	Mrs. Harrott
Tuesday,	 9.30 a.m. to 4.0 p.m.	The Parish Hall, WOMBWELL.	Mrs. Harrott
Thursday,	 9.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.	The Ambulance Hall, WORSBROUGH BRIDGE.	Mrs. Harrott
Friday	 9.30 a.m. to 4.0 p.m.	The Old Infants' School, DARTON.	Mrs. Harrott

Hospital Accommodation.

During the year six cases have been admitted to Mental Deficiency Hospitals for short-stay periods. The short stay facilities offered by the Regional Hospital Board are greatly appreciated for it enables the Authority to offer relief to those cases where temporary care is required to give the parents a rest and possibly avert a family crisis. The normal period allowed is 3 to 4 weeks, but in the event of a breakdown in the home this period can, at times, be extended.

Despite the acute shortage of vacancies in Mental Deficiency Hospitals, I am pleased to report that at the end of the year there are only two urgent cases not catered for, and that in any event, both these cases have been assisted by short-stay vacancies which has helped considerably to alleviate the domestic situation. I understand that these children will be accommodated as soon as a new hospital for low-grade children is opened by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board in the near future.

There are a further seven cases which are on the waiting list for admission to hospital in the event of unforeseen circumstances arising at home as a result of which they would not be able to receive the care necessary for their well-being.

As a result of the recent report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Deficiency, admissions to Mental Deficiency Hospitals now are on a purely "informal" basis, and it is not necessary to obtain medical certificates or magistrates Orders. This, in itself, is a great step forward and a step that is appreciated by the relatives as there is no longer the stigma "of being signed away", as admissions are treated in the same way as an admission to an ordinary hospital. However, the Local Authority still has the power to bring about the admission to a Mental Deficiency Hospital of a defective who is a social danger and this case is dealt with by a Magistrates Order on the production of medical evidence supporting a petition by the Local Authority.

Employment of Defectives.

At the end of the year there were 50 males and 17 females in regular gainful employment, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain employment for the school leavers who have been reported. Unfortunately the labour market is becoming such that employers now are able to be more selective, and naturally employ able-bodied people and the defectives are at a disadvantage in obtaining suitable work. It is a great pity because a high grade defective, although taking much longer to absorb a routine job will eventually, under supervision, give useful service.

Mental Health.

During the past year 48 patients have been discharged from Mental Hospitals, the majority of whom had been admitted on a Voluntary basis. Follow-up visits have been carried out by the Mental Health Social Worker and as a result there has been a steady increase in the number of after-

care visits. Many patients have expressed their appreciation of the interest taken in them, and also for the opportunity of discussing their worries and problems. At present there are 38 patients on the after-care register, 4 of whom are visited also by the Home Teacher for occupational therapy.

Often the reason for a breakdown could be an accumulation of fears and worries which the patients feel have gone unheard and the fact that they can discuss this and be helped to place the problems in true perspective can sometimes help to alleviate a certain amount of stress and strain. Wherever possible help and guidance is given, especially in the question of employment, financial and domestic problems, through the calling in of the various agencies, and also advice is given on the advisability of obtaining medical attention in the event of a patient's apparent relapse.

The Mental Health Social Worker also attends the Psychiatric Clinic at Beckett Hospital, Barnsley, and acts as a liaison officer between the clinic and the various local health authority departments, and also does whatever field work is required by the Consultant Psychiatrist.

There is every reason to be satisfied with the state of this service in the division. It has made vast strides during the past ten years and I think the work done compares favourably with other districts. Nevertheless, it will be a happy day when more time is spent on the earlier preventive cases rather than on after-care, but for the present time after-care is very necessary indeed.

